StudsUp

The Oz Fans' Perspective

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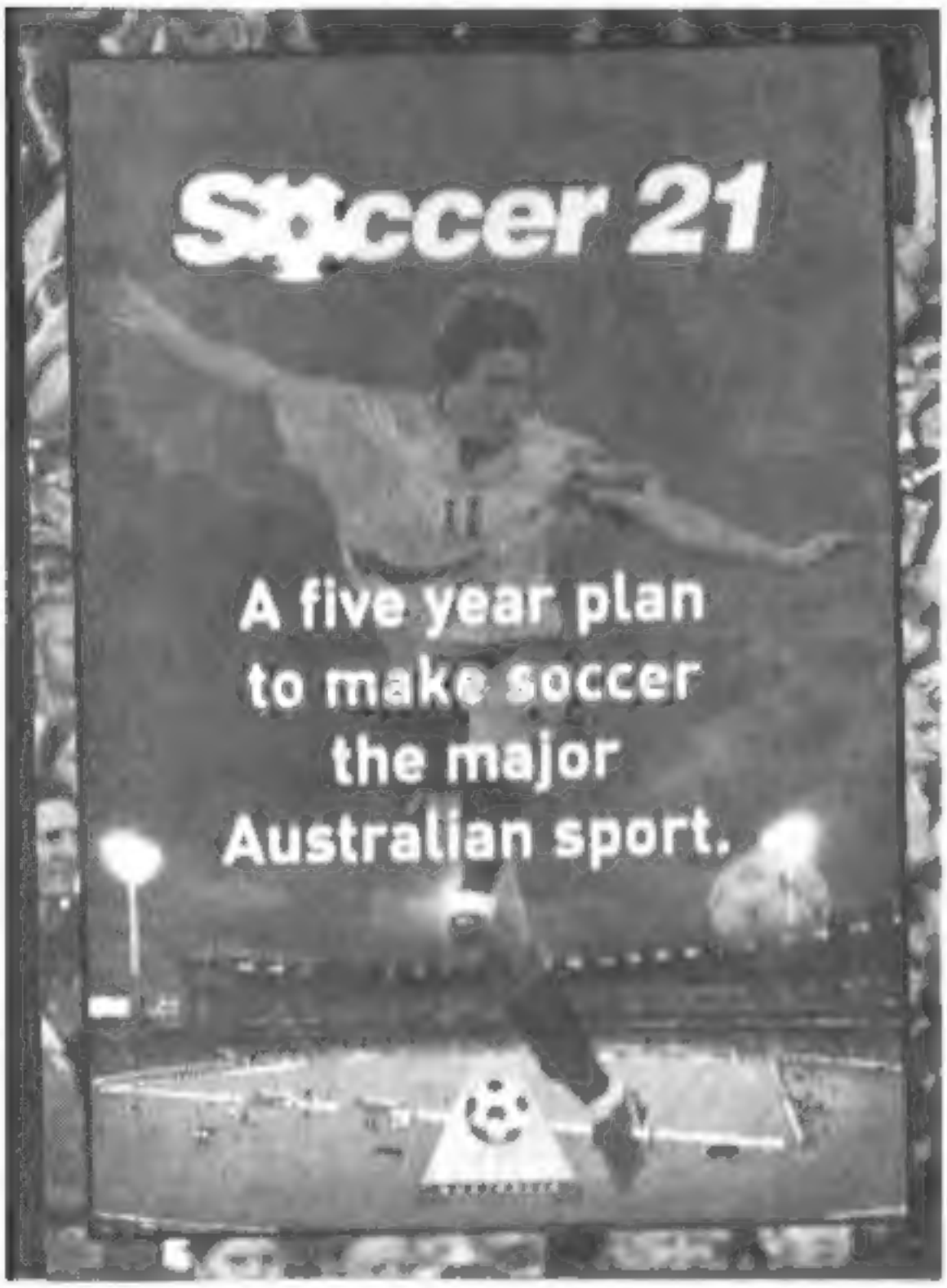
Soccer Australia have a Cunning Plan!!!!



But Are The Clubs Adult Enough???????

PLUS

World Youth Cup Lift-out

PLUS

Death of a Fan 1977-1999

PLUS

Get the Booklist Out

Plus much, much, more.....

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Disclaimer:

This is a FANZINE, and should be viewed accordingly!!
The opinions expressed in these bits of paper have been developed through years of watching, reading, playing , thinking, sleeping and generally living soccer since Oz last qualified for the World Cup finals. Therefore, no offense or offence is intended and none should be taken. Read, digest, and get in touch.

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Studs Up is-

Editor:
Kevin Christopher

Sub-editors:
Harry Georgiadis
Mr McPhee

Contributors:
Greg Stock
Damian Smith
Kasey Puyenbroek
Chris Kunz
And the many fans who brave the elements each week to cheer on their club

The beginning of the end for Tony?

Tony Labbozzetta is resilience personified. He is one of the most important men in Australian soccer history. But even important men must sometimes take a step back and look at the larger picture. For Tony Labbozzetta, that time has arrived. For many years now, Mr Labbozzetta has been at the core of Australian soccer matters, and is currently on the board of Soccer Australia as the NSL clubs representative. It is a position that requires a clear mind, a clear focus, and certainly no baggage.

Earlier this month, Mr Labbozzetta lost his appeal in the NSW Supreme Court against a conviction in the NSW Licensing Court, which followed a two-year ban issued by the Liquor Administration Board. All of which means that Tony is unable to run Club Marconi, yet he has decided to appeal against the Supreme Court's decision and, in essence, retain his position at least until the next appeal is heard. The point is, how can Tony possibly have a clear mind and a clear focus if he continues to be bogged down by personal legal matters?

Tony has always said he has had the best interests of Australian soccer at heart. In that context, he should stand down until his personal problems have been solved. And if he refuses to hand in his resignation, the NSL clubs should demand it.

All the World's a Stage...

After the drought comes the flood. After being served up a mish-mash of under-age friendlies Aussie fans can now look forward to the most exciting three months in living memory.

First up, the Young Socceroos take on the world's best (and reserves) in Nigeria and although we have been blessed with a relatively smooth qualifying path, Australia can be proud of the fact that we are the only non-Brazilian country to compete in every World Youth Cup in the 1990s. Additionally, Australia has reached the last eight three times in the past four tournaments, a record which any non-Brazilian side would envy.

Then it is the turn of the Socceroos, with Aime Jacquet leading a squadron of the world's finest players Down Under for a one-off exhibition match at Homebush on June 12. The Expo promises to be excellent value as well, and is likely to attract a vast number of non-playing celebrities to these shores.

Then there will be a quick chance to draw breath before the Matildas kick-off their World Cup Finals campaign, and while recent results have been patchy and hopes for a medal are unrealistic, the aim should be to provide an education for the players who will be shooting for bronze (at least) in 2000.

Squeezed in amongst all that will be an Ericsson Cup finals series which will certainly be the most talent-laden in years. Despite an increase in the size of the league, sufficient players have returned from Asia and Europe and coupled with the explosive development of various Young Socceroo representatives the public may well be treated to some thrilling soccer if the right venues, kick-off times, weather and publicity can be co-ordinated.

Fingers crossed...

Soccer Australia have a cunning plan ?

'Soccer 21 - A strategic Plan to take Australian soccer into the 21st century' 1999-2003.

It has been nearly four years since the National Soccer Summit in Melbourne saw soccer's great and not-so-great gather at the beginning of David Hill's reign, with the major criticism aired being Soccer Australia's lack of strategic direction and focus. It has taken an inordinately long time but SocAus has belatedly completed its mission statement for the new century. Not only does the plan provide the sort of strategic direction every organization needs but it provides fans and the media with a measuring stick for Soccer Australia's achievements. If SocAus doesn't achieve the targets set out in their own strategic plan, they have failed by their own criteria.

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In 1997, the Soccer Australia board, NSL clubs and the Presidents/Chairmen of the state and territory Federations conducted separate strategic planning sessions on the future direction of Australian soccer. In February 1998, a strategic planning committee was appointed to integrate all ideas into a strategic plan that, in theory, would provide Australian soccer's mission statement for the next five years.

The Strategic Planning Committee comprised of 10 members representing Soccer Australia (Wallace Dann, chair, Sue Baker-Finch and George Negus); States and Territories (Les Avory, South Australia, John Baker, Tasmania, John Hedison ,New South Wales amateurs); National Soccer League (Nick Tana Perth Glory, George Vasilopoulos South Melbourne (until May 1998) and since then Simon Konstantinidis Sydney Olympic). As was explained in SU30, some members hardly inspired confidence and the lack of input by fans, players and coaches was always likely to give the plan too narrow a focus.

The strategic plan is split into five parts, addressing the game's corporate structure; Australia and the world; marketing and promotion; the national league; and development of the game. At an administrative level, it hopes to "*...establish Soccer Australia as the peak governing body*...(integrating)...*all elements of the game at all levels throughout Australia...*" within a "*...clearly defined organizational...*" structure and to commit all bodies to national strategic objectives.

Integrating soccer administration is a laudable, if obvious, goal but could prove difficult to achieve. History is littered with examples of soccer being run by various bodies as private kingdoms, with officials jealously guarding their power to the detriment of the game as a whole. As a long-term goal, integrating national, state, amateur, junior, women's and coaching bodies would be a cause for great celebration. But it may well prove an interesting exercise in Victoria, where the amateur and women's federations have resisted various attempts to be absorbed within the VSF.

The history of mistrust and conflict between the three bodies is so intense and long-standing that just getting all parties to sit around the same table has proved difficult. As things stand, the VSF faces a constitutional crisis in its handling of the affair, with the board of Women's Soccer Victoria getting the necessary approval of their member clubs, but the VSF not quite getting around to doing the same with their clubs. It has all become extremely messy, with the VSF starting to look irresponsible in the matter.

They also have their problems with the amateurs, and the referees, although it would be unfair to make too much of the fact that the referees have quite literally moved in with the amateurs, taking up some cheap, vacant office space in the Amateur's Caulfield headquar-

New South Wales has also had their fair share of internal squabbles, and with the current state of the administrative in WA drawing howls of ridicule, it is not surprising to hear that some amateur bodies are considering merging and becoming directly affiliated to Soccer Australia, rather than have the frustration of dealing with their state body.

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'Australia and the world game' is the weakest part of the whole document. It states its objectives as "*...consistent success at all levels of international competition...*" and quickly degenerates into a wish list hoping for more exposure to world class teams, quality preparation for all major international events, high profile opponents for the Socceroos and bringing back our Euroroos more regularly. Simple really, which begs the question why nobody ever thought about it before! As if we didn't know... Bizarrely, it seeks to implement cyclical five-year plans for all national teams. Surely a more sensible scheme would be to frame any plan around the needs of the Socceroos and Olyroos (four years) and the Young Socceroos and Joeys (two years). In addition, setting a target of a top four ranking for our under-age teams is inappropriate for tournaments that are ostensibly for providing young players with international experience.

On marketing and promotion, the plan's objectives are to co-ordinate marketing initiatives within the game "*... adopting a national rather than fragmented approach to the generation of revenue...*".

It is a policy that was successfully employed by Joao Havelange, with FIFA courting 12 major sponsors for their top event. It is significant that of the initial twelve that signed up for the 1982 finals, most remain as 'Big 12' sponsors today. But given the tribalism within Aussie soccer, it could prove harder to achieve than envisaged.

Most clubs would be loathe to reduce the amount of perimeter advertising earmarked for loyal local sponsors, but the amount of revenue generated by using 'clean' stadia is available for all to scrutinize.

While national grounds retain signage for Con's yabbie supplies and Aldo's Valiant repairs, it will be difficult for the game to gain the respect of casual fans more accustomed to signage promoting the National Bank, Telstra and, yes, even the Grand Prix and Gay Mardi Gras.

(continued over)

The plan also stresses that soccer should focus on commercial free-to-air television to deliver the game to mainstream Australia. One can only wonder if Channel 7's shabby treatment of soccer will lead to this policy being reviewed and re-assessed.

The most radical changes are earmarked for the National Soccer League. According to the strategic plan, the NSL of the 21st Century will comprise of between 10 and 14 teams. Clubs will be forced to hold a license or franchise that could be withdrawn if strictly enforceable criteria are not met. It envisages a sharp increase in television revenue, gate receipts and merchandising (well, why change the tune after 22 years...).

The objective of the 'new' league is to include strategically located and financially viable clubs beyond current national league bases (what a surprise!) which will inevitably give several existing club presidents many sleepless nights. It will be interesting to see how that policy will dovetail with the proposed second division, so heartily endorsed by Victoria's Joe Brondolino and New South Wales' Peter Gray.

The strategic committee promises a review of the national league to be completed by mid-1999 and the new national league structure to be launched for the 2000-2001 season. As the Kiwis might say, "Can't wait for the shetlight over thet one..."

The final part of the strategic plan focuses on youth development. It hopes to enhance growth "*...based on strong formal and informal links from grassroots to the national and international levels of the game...*" by co-ordinating national initiatives.

Youth development is probably one of the most misunderstood aspects of Australian soccer. People point to our relative success at youth international level and the increasing number of Aussie players in Europe as proof of our success at producing new talent. The reality is that youth development in this country is elitist, concentrating resources on the Institutes of Sport while the vast majority of kids are left to suffer poor coaching and sub-standard facilities at school and club level.

The strategic plan intends to achieve predetermined growth targets and commit additional resources (no figures are mentioned) at junior and schools soccer. It also acknowledges that without the co-operation of the state federations, a nationally coordinated youth development program can't be achieved.

The *real* challenge for Soccer Australia will be in implementing 'Soccer 21' and to see that its not white-anted by sectional interests

One could also argue that given the declining number of junior players in some states, those federations should have little to do with the youth development program.

Putting aside the lack of fan, player and coaching input, and the vagueness of chapters relating to youth development and our international teams,

Soccer 21 has at least tried to address many of the games most glaring problems. Nevertheless, it doesn't tell you anything that *Studs Up* hasn't. In fact *SU* has probably told you a lot more. The *real* challenge for Soccer Australia will be in implementing 'Soccer 21' and to see that its not white-anted by sectional interests.

GET THE BOOK OUT!

Red card to Soccer Australia magazine. While it is true that rumours of its death were greatly exaggerated, it was a five month wait between issues 39 & 40 so we could have been excused for expecting the April 1999 issue to contain a fair swag of good reading.

Unfortunately, we feel we must warn SU readers they should avoid coughing up $7.95 to be dealt pages and pages of English Premier League coverage, a couple of posters of English players, major European fixtures for December and January (!?!), an eight page swimwear feature (!?!) and an interview with Richie Benaud. It saddens us to have to butcher what was once a fine Aussie mag, but we simply must protest at what it has become. Is there really a need to prolong the perception that our kids would rather read about Dalglish, Lampard, Shearer and co.?

If it wasn't for the three profile pieces on Zane, Colosimo and Poric, we'd be happy to set fire to it at this year's grand final breakfast.

Red card to Melbourne Knights midfielder John Didulica for spitting at referee Wayne Dade after Marconi had pinched an injury time winner at Somers St on December 27. Yep, Dade's decision to allow the goal was a shocker, but it seems the days of referees needing a police escort from the ground are still with us, and it is entirely inappropriate (to say the least) that NSL players emit saliva from their mouths, at pace, in the general direction of the game's officials. After all, what will the supporters attempt if they think that PLAYERS can get away with that? Anyway, SocAus obviously had similar thoughts because they've rubbed him out for the rest of the season, which should at least give him time to think about his responsibility to the game and give that knee injury plenty of time to heal. And while we're at it....

Yellow card to SocAus for the pace of their investigations. As reported above, the original incident took place on December 27, the original tribunal hearing was scheduled for February 11 but a tribunal panel member was unavailable so the hearing was put back to February 25. Considering there was video evidence available of the act, why the hell does it take two months to reach a verdict? We know the wheels of justice turn slowly, but...

Which reminds us. WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON WITH THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE TRASHING OF THE NEWCASTLE BREAKERS CHANGE ROOMS? We think we should be told....

Yellow card to those 'Super Team' entrants in The Australian's Premier League competition. It's bad enough that Uncle Rupert is forcing Aussie fans to select a team for the ENGLISH league, but for the fans to submit entry names such as Elvis Presley, The Rolling Stones, Ricky Nelson, Eddie Cochran and Spencer Davis does nothing for our reputation in the eyes of overseas visitors. Thankfully one fan maintained the spirit of such competitions by submitting 'Man You Are Poxy'.....

Yellow card to Graham Burke of the community Leader newspaper group in Melbourne who ran a 'feature' match report on Nick Van Egmond, a real veteran of the league, yet managed to attach the moniker Van Egmond to the report an incredible six times and once more in the headline. Not one for Nick's scrapbook....

Death of a Fan....

Or: Why Northern Spirit is the future.

At approx. 1825 AEST on 21 Mar 99 an Ericsson Cup soccer fan was pronounced dead, by himself, at BJS about 20 minutes into the first half of the game between South Melbourne and Adelaide City. Shocked friends and fellow supporters watched and listened in horror as the middle aged man (whose name has not been released), sat back down in his seat, turned to those nearby and said things to the effect of "that's it, I've had a gutfull! No more! I'm NEVER going to another City game! Not if its going to be like this!"

A brief investigation was begun by myself, to try to determine the cause of death.

About December/January, it was mooted by some Adelaide City members that a group of members get on a couple of coaches in March, and follow their team to what was quite rightly anticipated to be a blockbuster versus traditional rivals South Melbourne SC at the BJS. As an Adelaidian who lives in Melbourne (Yes I do still attend EC soccer every week "a junkie!") I was pleased to see the Zebra support in numbers (about 100) seated in the grandstand. I gladly paid an extra $3 to enter the designated away section (the one to the extreme right as you look on from the TV tower side)

Now there is a hardcore group of Adelaide City supporters of British and Australian background that sing and chant (in English) a la Perth Glory & Northern Spirit in 'The Shed' & 'The Bob Stand' respectively. Some of them had made the journey from Adelaide. At home games it is only 10 to 20 strong, with 6 or 7 making this trip. The deceased could perhaps be described as a ringleader of sorts.

Supporting the Zebras since 1977, he only misses if he has to work the late shift. Loud mouthed, heartily voiced, beer quaffing, Aussie flag (with Adelaide City SC) on it) waving loyal supporter. This the archetypical diehard fan that every club needs and craves to survive.

So what happened? Well, about 10 or so young men and boys of Italian descent spent the entire first half singing in Italian, and taunting the opposition supporters in Italian and Greek. The English language taunts consisted of "World Cup 94", obviously a reference to the Greek national teams dismal performances & "Argentina 4-0". (Funny that we were knocked out of WC 94 by Argentina eh) For the most part, I couldn't even tell you what they were singing, as I am not bilingual, but what ever it was seemed to incense the South supporters to the point where Yellow Shirts & Cops had to come over and stand in the aisle to provide a physical deterrent to violence.

The man who had organised the away trip, as well as the majority of the City supporters, were outraged by this obvious attempt to stir up trouble by a minority. The good time expected was quickly being ruined for all. The organiser attempted to sort this unruly element out to the tune of "Grow up, Sing in English, and sing to support the Zebras or give shit to Lozza, but STOP trying to start a riot." He was told to *#ck off, followed by the reasoning that they had paid their money and that they were entitled to sing and chant what they liked.

When it was pointed out to them that they were doing a good job of starting a violent encounter, possibly harming the well behaved supporters sitting next to them, as well as the clubs image and bankbook, the reply went along the lines of "*#ck off mate, I don't care! I want to fight those Greek pigs! Let them come! I don't care!"

This is the point where the late diehard fan decided that he'd had enough. He was going to rip up his season ticket the moment he could find a club official, he said. "Never again! There is nothing wrong with recognising the past, and City's has been glorious and successful," he says" but the way forward is to change! This club cannot and will not change! It's the clubs fault for bringing them!"

At no stage did he actually blame the decent supporters of Adelaide City, the ones who began all those years ago yelling "Juve!" but have realised that the way forward is "City!" But he has come to the conclusion, and I am inclined to agree with him, that a leopard cannot change its spots, even if it wanted to. The ethnic baggage at clubs like City will be it's downfall. Not Italian enough for Italians (witness the fallen through merger between the SA Italian Club and Adelaide City SC), but not Australian enough to appeal to the mainstream population. Sound familiar Sydney United followers?

Now I hear you ask, if he is a true supporter, there since 77, firstly shouldn't he be used to that sort of crap, and secondly, no TRUE supporter would consider giving up. My response to both of these questions is: Why should he (and the rest of us) have to put up with it? Soccer is supposed to be fun, but its no fun trying to watch a game surrounded by security and police, protecting you against possible violence that you didn't even start. How the hell are people supposed to feel like they can come along and enjoy themselves let alone the fathers and mothers with their children, if idiots spend their time trying to stir up racial riots based on where their parents were born. And that is the point, although soccer is a much more passionate game than say Aussie Rules, in Australia we are supposed to go to sport to enjoy ourselves, not try to start fights. It is my opinion that this man had just had enough of it all.

One final word from our recently departed: " I've always said that I will NEVER support a team named 'United' , but as soon as Adelaide United get accepted into the A-League, I'll buy a membership and season ticket, and that's the only way I'll go back to Hindmarsh!"

So on behalf of all 'mainstream' soccer fans in the city of Churches, GO UNITED! GO UNITED! If someone out there is actually involved in this X-Files like operation, and you're reading this : there are literally thousands of people like the recently departed out there, just waiting for the call to arms to support an 'Australian' Adelaide club. So hurry up for pity's sake, we love our soccer and we wait for that day with baited breath!

Until then VALE another fan 1977-1999

Footnote: Stay tuned to Studs Up for any further info on the mythical Adelaide United, perhaps due for launch in October 1999.

Get The Book...

To those who were disappointed at the non-appearance of this list in SU37, we humbly apologise. It would be nice to keep to deadlines and promises, but sometimes other stuff jumps up and bites you near the navel so hard you need to re-prioritise. Or something like that.....

Anyway, here it is. The complete list of cards dished out to by the various SU officials over the years. If you're REALLY keen to know why certain people copped cards don't hesitate to get in touch. And of course if we've missed any acts of utter stupidity then we'd love to hear from you.

Issue 1 - CAF delegates (y), state administrators (y), Andy Paschalidis (R), Groundstaff (y), NSL clubs (y)

Issue 2 - Senator John Coulter (R), Mirko Bazic (y), Jim Pyrgolios (y), John Markovski (y), Greek press (y), Journalists (R), Danny Tiatto (R), Pat Bradley (R)

Issue 3 - Don DiFabrizio (R), VSF (y), UTS Olympic (y), John Markovski (y), Heidelberg (y), Zoran Matic (y)

Issue 4 - Eddie Thomson (y), South Melbourne (y), Senator Julian McGauran (y), VSF (y)

Issue 5 - Jan Wilson (y), VSF (y), Preston (y), Eddie Thomson (y), Michael Stensgaard (y), FIFA (y)

Issue 6 - Soccer Australia (y), Peter Desira (y), Dr Margaret Lindsay (y), Journalists (y)

Issue 7 - 0055 numbers (R), South Melbourne (y), South Melbourne (y), Branko Culina (y), Mirko Bazic (y), NSL clubs (y), NZTV (R), SBS (y), NSL clubs (y)

Issue 8 - None!

Issue 9 - Wollongong (R), ABC (y), Danny Tiatto (R), Peter Desira (y), FIFA (y)

Issue 10 - Danny Tiatto (y), Eddie Thomson (R), Victorian coaches (y), An Adelaide Pub (R), Eddie Thomson (R), Hindmarsh ground announcer (R), David Hill (y), NSL clubs (R), John Markovski (y)

Issue 11 - Melbourne fans (y), White City Woodville (y), SASF (y), VSF (y), Ron Barassi (R)

Issue 12 - John Perin (y), Soccer Australia (y), Croydon Kings (y), Tom Anderson (R)

Issue 13 - N S W S F (y), SBS (y), Claudio Canosa (y), Frank Farina (y), Danny Tiatto (y), South Melbourne (y), On the Ball (y), Croydon Kings (R)

Issue 14 - Amateur SF of Victoria (R), 2BL (y), FIFA (y), Aurelio Vidmar (y)

Issue 15 - Ned Zelic (R), QSF (y), Eddie Thomson (y), Peter Balassone (y), Soccer Australia (y), Journalists (y)

Issue 16 - Soccer Australia (y), Doug Booth (R), Eddie Thomson (y), Eddie Thomson (y), Soccer Australia (y)

Issue 17 - Gippsland Falcons (y), SA administrators (y), All state administrators (y), Security personal at BJS (R)

Issue 18 - South Melbourne (y), South Melbourne (y), South Melbourne (y), Marconi (y), Ericsson (y), NSL clubs (y), Sean Babic (y), Derek Crawford (y)

.....List Out

Issue 19 - South Melbourne (y), Kick-Off (y), Johnny Warren (y), Con Diomis (y), South Melbourne (y), Fleet Street (R)

Issue 20 - Studs Up (y), Andrew Marth (y), Coca Cola (R), Sepp Blatter (y), Collingwood (y), Soccer Australia (y)

Issue 21 - Alex Kuzmanovic (R), Marconi (R), The Australian (y), SFS (y)

Issue 22 - Collingwood (R), Canberra (y), Ned Zelic (y), Collingwood (y), South Melbourne (y), David Hill (R), Soccer Australia (R), On the Ball (R), Soccer SA (y), On the Ball (y)

Issue 23 - Knights/Lakers fans (R), South Melbourne (R), SBS (y), Soccer Australia (y), Nick Tana (y), World Soccer magazine (y)

Issue 24 - Nintendo Series organisers (R), Peter Kogoy (y), Soccer Australia magazine (y), Preliminary final pre-match entertainment committee (y), Kresimir Marusic (y), SBS (y), VSF (y), South Melbourne (R)

Issue 25 - FIFA (R), VSF (R), Soccer Australia (R), Terry Venables (y), Sydney soccer fans (y)

Issue 26 - Bob Brooks (R), VSF (y), ABSW (y), Photographers at VSF Gold Medal count (R), Terry Venables and Soccer Australia (y), Organisers of Snickers Soccer Sensation (R), Rocco Di Zio (R)

Issue 27 - UTS Olympic (y), Optus Vision (y), Soccer Australia (R)

Issue 28 - FIFA (R), FIFA (y), Mark Viduka (R), Channel 7 (y), Organisers of MCG ticket sales (y), SBS (y), John Economos (y), ABSW (y), Ray Galt (y), VSF (R)

Issue 29 - Peter Desira (R), SBS (R), Melbourne Knights (R), Mark Shields (R), Coin chuckers (R), Sydney and Melbourne fans (y), Paul Bilokapic (y), Johnny Warren (y), Sydney United (y), Sydney United (R), Marketing (y)

Issue 30 - Perth Glory (R), Jonny Warren (R), ABSW (R), Soccer Australia (y), South Melbourne (y), TVNZ (y), Lou Sticca (y)

Issue 31 - Tony Labozzetta (R), Journalists (y), Con Anthopoulos (R), Soccer Australia (R), Fred Villiers (y)

Issue 32 - Northern Spirit (R), Celtic (y), VSF (y), Melbourne Olympic Organising Committee (y), Bob Pierce (R)

Issue 33 - Oceania Cup organisers (R), Brisbane Strikers (R), Sydney Olympic (y), Canberra Cosmos (y), AIS (y)

Issue 34 - South Melbourne (R), Optus Oval caterers (y), Television rights deal (y), Alan Hunter (y), Velimir Kupresak (y)

Issue 35 - Melbourne Knights (y), Soccer Australia (y), Soccer Australia (y), Brisbane Strikers (y), Soccer Central (y)

Issue 36 - Melbourne Knights (R), Peter Velappan (R), Thieves (R), Thieves (R), Bernie Mandic (R), South Melbourne (y)

Issue 37 - Wollongong police (R), Soccer Australia (R), Soccer Australia (y), Sydney Olympic (y), Sports Australia (y), VSF (y)

Issue 38 - Soccer Australia magazine (R), John Didulica (R), Soccer Australia (y), Super Team entrants (y), Graham Burke (y)

Just over eight months to go...

... until Oz finds out which minnows we'll be trampling before taking on to Kiwis during the next World Cup qualifying phase. December 7 is the date set down for the drawing of the balls, which will take place in Tokyo. It is expected that qualifying matches will take place between March 1, 2000 and November 11, 2001.

But before anyone in this region kicks a ball there is the delicate matter of the number of places allocated to the Asians, and whether a restructuring of that qualifying process will effect the winners of the Oceania region. The latest olive branch comes in the form of not one extra place, but two extra half-places. This would allow the Europeans to settle their differences with the Asians on the park, and perhaps even allow Australia to divert its attention back to Asia as well.

AFC honcho Peter Velappan was fairly excited by the delay in FIFA's decision, claiming *"I think it is good sign for Asia that it has been set back to allow us more time for discussions. Europe are sympatheic towards us and we are gaining African support. Clearly FIFA realise we have a good case."* Well, perhaps, but the powerful South Americans may have plenty more to say about it yet...

The threat of a boycott remains ongoing, although nobody really expects AFC teams to withdraw en masse. By postponing a definite decision until July, FIFA has allowed the AFC the opportunity to grandstand to its constituents when the correct course of action would have been to tell them to sit down, shut up, and try and win something on the park for a change....

Another missed opportunity??

Despite the introduction of the much maligned Confederations Cup, the AFC and the CFA have agreed to revive the Afro-Asian Nations Cup, which would provide Australia with another opportunity to nose their way into a (semi) established tournament - if we were Oceania champions (aaarrrgghh!!)

Anyway, South Africa and Saudi Arabia will play in Johannesburg on September 19 followed by the return leg in Riyadh on September 30. To further confuse those who reckon we already play too much soccer, the Afro -Asian club championship between Raja Casablanca of Morocco and Pohang Steelers of South Korea was had to be put on ice due to fixture congestion.

Young Socceroos - Still Creating History

Australian soccer fans have suffered disappointment for many years when it comes to the big tournaments. Having qualified for the World Cup Finals just once remains a thorn in the groin of the sport in this country, and until the Socceroos can overcome the barrier (which now contains a psychological element as well as the traditional geographic ones) we will still be considered one of many countires with potential. Like Ghana, and China, and Canada, and the Ivory Coast, and.....

But at underage level, Australia can boast a record which few can equal. At Olympic, under 20 and under 17 levels, we can rightly say we can compete with them all, particularly at under 20 level where our record is simply outstanding. Australia has also been fortunate enough to host the finals twice, and anyone who was at Australia's games will testify what fantastic occasions they were. But those same attendees will also realise the importance of organisational skills being maximised to avoid political, logistical and security problems, so there must be a certain level of trepidation as the big kick-off approaches in Nigeria.

On paper, the Class of '99 looks to have sufficient firepower if the strikers remain fit, and having managed to avoid all the traditional big guns in the draw, Australia can confidently look forward to qualifying for the round of 16. And if we happen to win the group, we can confidently look forward to avoiding South American opposition until the semi-finals.But that would be getting ahead of ourselves.....

In any event, Australia will have competed in nine of the past ten championships, a feat only bettered by Brazil. And despite what some people may term a favourable qualifying path, Australia has earned its stripes once in the finals, progressing to the knock-out phase on five of eight occasions. It is a record that has sent numerous global soccer identities to this country in an effort to discover the secret, but despite the implementation of some Aussie ideas, few countries continue to churn out excellent youth players at such a high rate.

Much of the credit must go to Les Scheinflug, whose work with the youth team now spans two decades, and the various assistants including Raul Blanco and Vic Fernandez. Their work was often done while juggling national league commitments but the fact remains that they have always managed to produce outstanding youth teams with enormous self-belief.

In an attempt to provide SU subscribers with a tribute/history of the Young Socceroos we must hold up our hands and admit we have failed. We just didn't have the resources to ascertain every detail of every match. But what we have provided over the next eleven pages should provide enough info to conclude that the World Youth Championships has been our most successful ongoing international achievement. We hope you'll overlook our statistical shortcomings and accept it for what tries to be.

Enjoy!

1981 World Youth Cup Finals (in Australia)

The Group Phase

To say the hosts stunned the world with their defeat of the reigning champions would be the understatement of the century. Some pundits remain convinced it was Australia's greatest ever soccer achievement to that time, and with Sergio Goycochea and Jorge Burruchaga in the Argies line-up it is a difficult conclusion to dispute. Oz came from 3-1 down to force a draw with Cameroon (featuring Louis Mfede) but needed to win against England to win the group and remain based in Sydney. They led for 76 minutes until Mike Small headed home to condemn Australia to a trip to Canberra. By then, however, Steve Blair, Oscar Crino, Paul Kay, David Mitchell and Mark Koussas had all guaranteed themselves legend status.

The Knock-out Phase

Les Scheinllug claimed he was happier to face the Germans rather than Egypt. Hmmm. While England defeated Egypt 4-2, Australia were eliminated by the eventual winners (not for the last time), but the narrow scoreline was confirmation that the Young Socceroos had paved the way for future generations. Crino was again outstanding, and many neutral observers believed that had Kousssas converted a 74th minute penalty the hosts would have gone on to defeat the Germans. Oz also had a goal disallowed in the final minute, but despite the loss Australia's inferiority complex had been well and truly smashed. For trivia buffs, Roland Wohlfarth scored the winner after 69 minutes for a side which also featured Michael Zorc.

Oct 3 Sydney Argentina 2-1
Koussas 80, Hunter 90
Oct 6 Newcastle Cameroon 3-3
Mitchell 11, Koussas 53, 78 pen
Oct 8 Sydney England 1-1
Koussas 7
Oct 11 Canberra 1/4 Final.
West Germany 0-1

Final Group D standings (all played 3)

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	1	2	-	4	2	4
Australia	**1**	**2**	**-**	**6**	**5**	**4**
Argentina	1	1	1	3	3	3
Cameroon	-	1	2	3	6	1

			Arg	Cam	Eng	WG
1. Alan Ahearn		Sydney City	X	X	X	X
18. Dennis Ivanac		AIS				
2. Robert Wheatley	17 05 62	Blacktown	X	X	X	X
3. Howard Tredinnick		Newcastle KB	X	X	X	X
4. Steven Blair	28 12 61	South Melbourne	X	X	X	X
5. Oscar Crino	09 06 62	AIS	X	X	X	X
13. Brett Woods		Sydney City				
12. David Skeen	13 01 62	St George				
6. Paul Kay	18 05 62	Wollongong	X	X	X	X
8. Peter Raskopoulos	22 02 62	Sydney Olympic	X	X	X	Xo77
11. Fabio Incantalupo	30 12 63	Juventus (Vic)	Xo64	Xo74	Xo80	Xo45
10. Grant Lee	19 12 61	Sydney City	X	Xo46	so80	so45
15. Jim Patikas		Sydney City	so81	so74	Xo62	X
7. Ian Hunter		Marconi	so64	so46	so62	so77
17. John Little		Preston Makedonia				
9. David Mitchell	13 06 62	Adelaide City	X	X	X	X
14. Mark Koussas	09 01 63	Sydney Olympic	Xo81	X	X	X
16. Dennis Colusso		Marconi				

1983 World Youth Cup Finals (in Mexico)

The Group Phase

The Aussies had the privlege of opening the tournament against the hosts in front of a packed Azteca Stadium, but kicked off over an hour late after the team bus got stuck in a traffic jam on the way to the stadium. The Young 'Roos snatched a point and then defeated Scotland to create further headlines at home before falling just short of a Korean team which would go on and lead Brazil in the semi finals. Tony Franken had an excellent tournament and many more when on to carve out outstanding careers both at home and abroad. Trivia buffs may wish to know that St George's Robbie Slater and Adelaide City's Steve Maxwell were on the stand-by [redacted].

June 2 Mexico City Mexico 1-1
Frank Farina
June 5 Toluca Scotland 2-1
Fabio Incantalupo, Jim Patikas
June 8 Toluca South Korea 1-2
Rod Brown

Final group A standings (all played 3)

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	2	-	1	4	2	4
South Korea	2	-	1	4	4	4
Australia	**1**	**1**	**1**	**4**	**4**	**3**
Mexico	-	1	2	2	4	1

			MEX	SCO	SK
Chris Hummell	04 05 65	Canberra			
Anthony Franken	11 01 65	AIS	X	X	X
Ralph Maier	05 05 64	Newcastle	X	X	X
Tommy McCulloch	10 02 64	Marconi	X		X
Tony Dakos	09 04 64	Sydney Olympic	so46	X	X
Ray Vlaestra	11 02 64	Wollongong	X	X	X
Joe Rizzotto	11 04 64	Marconi		X	X
Roy Jones		AIS	X		
Jim Patikas		Sydney Olympic	X	X	X
Russell Stewart	27 03 64	Brisbane Lions Xo46	X	Xo46	
Steve Glockner		Brisbane City			
Fabio Incantalupo	30 12 63	Juventus (Vic)	Xo60	Xo62	Xo35
Frank Farina	05 09 64	Canberra	X	Xo58	so46
David Lowe	30 06 63	Newcastle	X	X	X
Rod Brown	27 01 64	Marconi	X	X	X
Rene Licata		Marconi	so60	so62	so35
Danny Wright	02 11 64	Brisbane Lions	so58		

Stand-by players:
David Miller (Adelaide Azzurri), Marcelo Salvo (AIS), Luciano Fabrizio (AIS), Steve Maxwell (Adelaide City), Robbie Slater (St George).

1985 World Youth Cup Finals (in USSR)

The Group Phase

Coach Jim Shoulder was widely criticised for his defensive tactics throughout the tournament and although a point was earned against the USSR it was immediately dropped against Canada - the only team in the competition that failed to score. The match against a Nigerian side featuring Samson Siasia is a definite case of 'what if'. Leading 2-0 at half time and 2-1 with twelve minutes remaining, Nigeria pounced twice in a minute to book a quarter final spot against Mexico. Nigeria went on to finish third. Early in the second half, Australia had had a number of chances, two of the best falling to Chris Kalantsiz, but they couldn't bury the Africans and paid the ultimate price.

Aug 24 (Minsk) USSR 0-0
Aug 27 (Minsk) Canada 0-0
Aug 29 (Minsk) Nigeria 2-3
Panagis 27, Kalantzis 38

Final Group C standings (all played 3)

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
USSR	2	1	-	7	1	5
Nigeria	1	2	-	6	4	4
Australia	-	**2**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**2**
Canada	-	1	2	0	7	1

			USSR	CAN	NIG
1. Paul Jones	11 05 68	AIS	X	X	X
18. Mirko Runje	14 10 66	Melbourne Croatia			
2. Robert Hooker (c)	06 03 67	AIS	X	X	X
4. Mark Jones	05 06 66	Newcastle Rosebud	X	X	X
12. Michael McLennan	13 04 67	AIS	X	X	X
17. Angie Postecoglou	27 06 65	South Melbourne	X	X	X
3. John Gregson	23 06 65	Melita Eagles			so63
5. Aki Kotzamichalis	12 05 66	Melbourne Croatia			
6. John Panagis	28 03 66	West Adelaide	X	Xo58	Xo63
10. Lou Hristodoulou	07 06 67	AIS	X	Xo46	so63
16. David Sharpe	29 06 66	AIS	X	X	X
8. Andrew Koczka	09 09 65	St George		so58	
15. Richard Bassingthwaite	19 08 65	Brisbane Lions			
7. Alex Bundalo	8 05 68	Wollongong City	X	X	Xo63
11. Chris Kalantzis	22 07 67	Sydney Olympic	X	X	X
14. Warren Spink	04 10 66	Preston Makedonia		X	X
13. Sean Ingham	13 06 66	AIS		so46	X
9. Peter Petrovski	25 09 66	St George			

Don't forget to check out our website at:-
Www.ozemail.com.au/~studsup/first1.htm
For past tournaments reports and results.

1987 World Youth Cup Finals (in Chile)

The Group Phase

It wouldn't be rude to say the Aussies chances of progress were hampered by a horrendous draw. Yugoslavia, the eventual champions, included Prosinecki (the player of the tournament), Boban (runner-up in the p.o.t.t.), Suker (runner-up top goalscorer), Jarni, Stimac and Mijatovic in the starting line-up. Enough said. Against Chile, Australia more than held their own but once Pino scored and Kulscar was sent off for crunching the captain Cortez, it was all downhill. Chile, by finishing fourth, proved that Australia was in the 'group of death' but their cause wasn't helped by John Koch, who was sent off against Togo for 'technical infringements' at throw-ins.

Oct 11 Santiago Togo 2-0
Edwards 17, Reynolds 12
Oct 14 Santiago Yugoslavia 0-4
Oct 17 Santiago Chile 0-2

Final group A standings (all played 3)

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yugoslavia	3	-	-	12	3	6
Chile	2	-	1	7	4	4
Australia	1	-	2	2	6	2
Togo	-	-	3	1	9	0

			Tog	Yug	Chi
Brett Hughes			X	X	X
David Healey	13 03 68		X	X	X
George Kulcsar			X	X	X
Kurt Reynolds			X	X	X
John Koch		AIS	XyR		Xo
Darren Northam	21 11 67			X	X
Lou Hristodoulou			X	X	X
Abbas Saad			X	X	X
Jason Polak	09 01 68		Xo	X	s
Jason Van Blerk	16 03 68	AIS	s		s
Grbac			X	X	X
Paul Trimboli	25 02 69		X	Xo	Xo
John Anastasiadis				s	
Alastair Edwards	21 06 68		X	X	X
Craig Moffit	13 09 67	St George			

1989 - The one that got away

Australia's failure to qualify for the 1989 finals in Saudi Arabia interrupted what would have been a truly spectacular run of qualificaiton successes. After safely negotiating the qualifiers in Fiji, the Aisa/Oceania play-offs provided too daunting a task, with Australia unable to defeat Qatar and losing to Syria 0-1. Many Aussies in that squad went on to become outstanding players both at home and abroad, including the liekis of John Filan, Shaun Murphy, Milan Blagojevic, Zlatko Arambasic, John Markovski and Ned Zelic.

World Youth Cup Placings:- Country by Country.

Year	Appa	1977	1979	1981	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
EUROPE													
Austria	II	1st rd			1st rd								
Belgium	I											2nd rd	
Bulgaria	II					1/4 fin	1/4 fin						
Czechoslovakia	2				1/4 fin			1st rd					
England	5			4th		1st rd			1st rd	3rd		2nd rd	
France	2	1st rd										1/4 fin	
Germany	II									1st rd	1st rd		
Germany, East	II						3rd	1st rd					
Germany, West	II			**1st**			**2nd**						
Holland	2				1/4 fin						1st rd		
Hungary	4	1st rd	1st rd			1st rd						1st rd	
Italy	3	1st rd		1st rd			1/4 fin						
Norway	II							1st rd		1st rd			
Poland	3		4th	1st rd	3rd								
Portugal	II		1/4 fin					**1sts**	**1st**	1st rd	3rd		
Rep. Of Ireland	3					1st rd			1st rd			**3rd**	
Rumania	1			3rd									
Russia	II									1/4 fin	1/4 fin		
Scotland	2				1/4 fin		1/4 fin						
Soviet Union	6	**1st**	**2nd**		1st rd	4th		1/4 fin	3rd				
Spain	8	1st rd	1/4 fin	1st rd		**2nd**		1st rd	1/4 fin		4th	1/4 fin	
Sweden	1								1st rd				
Turkey	1									1st rd			
Yugoslavia	2		1st rd				**1st**						
SOUTH AMERICA													
Argentina	7		**1st**	1st rd	**2nd**			1/4 fin	1st rd		**1st**	**1st**	
Brazil	10	3rd		1/4 fin	**1st**	**1st**	1/4 fin	3rd	**2nd**	**1st**	**2nd**	1/4 fin	
Chile	2						4th				1st rd		
Colombia	4					1/4 fin	1st rd	1/4 fin		1st rd			
Paraguay	4	1st rd	1/4 fin			1st rd						1st rd	
Uruguay	7	4th	3rd	1/4 fin	1/4 fin				1st rd	1/4 fin		2nd	
CONCACAF													
Canada	4		1st rd			1st rd	1st rd					2nd rd	
Costa Rica	3							1st rd			1st rd	1st rd	
Honduras	2	1st rd									1st rd		
Mexico	6	**2nd**	1st rd	1st rd	1st rd	1/4 fin			1/4 fin	1/4 fin		2nd rd	
USA	6			1st rd	1st rd		1st rd	4th		1/4 fin		2nd rd	
Trinidad & Tobago	1								1st rd				
AFRICA													
Algeria	1		1/4 fin										
Burundi	1										1st rd		
Cameroon	8			1st rd						1st rd	1/4 fin		
Egypt	2			1/4 fin					1st rd				
Ghana	2									**2nd**		4th	
Guinea	1		1st rd										
Ivory Coast	4	1st rd			1st rd				1st rd			1st rd	
Mali	1							1st rd					
Nigeria	4				1st rd	3rd	1st rd	**2nd**					
Tunisia	2	1st rd				1st rd							
Morocco	2	1st rd										2nd rd	
South Africa	1											1st rd	
Togo	1						1st rd						
ASIA/OCEANIA													
Australia	8			1/4 fin	1st rd	1st rd	1st rd		4th	4th	1/4 fin	2nd rd	
Bahrain	1						1st rd						
China	3				1st rd	1/4 fin						1st rd	
Indonesia	1		1st rd										
Iran	1	1st rd											
Iraq	2	1st rd						1/4 fin					
Japan	3		1st rd								1/4 fin	1/4 fin	
Korea	1								1/4 fin				
Malaysia	1											1st rd	
Qatar	2			2nd							1st rd		
Saudi Arabia	4					1st rd	1st rd	1st rd		1st rd			
South Korea	5		1st rd	1st rd	4th					1st rd		1st rd	
Syria	3							1st rd	1/4 fin		1st rd		
United Arab Emirates	1											2nd rd	

1991 World Youth Cup Finals (in Portugal)

The Group Phase

An unimpressive 2-0 win over a Trinidad team which included Dwight Yorke led the experts to suggest that the USSR and Egypt would progress to the quarter-finals until Brad Maloney fired in a 20 metre thunderbolt against the Soviets (with Terry Venables watching in the grandstand) and some solid defending against Egypt meant the Australians topped the group and earned an appointment with Asian nemesis Syria. Muscat, Kindtner, Bosnich, Okon and Seal were all in form as the players' agents circled.

The Knock-out Phase

Despite being the better team and hitting the goalframe three times, Oz needed a shoot-out to edge past Syria and thus become the first Australian team to reach the last four of a F.I.F.A. tournament. Their prize was a clash with the hosts in front of 112,538 fans and the team were heroic in defeat, going down to a spectacular long range effort from Rui Costa. Les Scheinflug was optimistic following Australia's final gutsy effort against the USSR: *"If we prepare ourselves as well, we can most probably be picking up the cup, hopefully in 1993. If you don't have dreams, you die very early."*

Jun 15 Braga — **Trinidad & Tobago** — **2-0**
Okon 54pen, Seal 76

Jun 18 Braga — **USSR** — **1-0**
Maloney 20

Jun 20 Guimaraes — **Egypt** — **1-0**
Trajanovski 43

Jun 23 Braga — **1/4 fin,Syria** — **1-1***
Seal 20

Jun 26 Lisbon — **Semi,Portugal** — **0-1**

Jun 29 Oporto — **3rd pl,USSR** — **1-1****
Seal 85

Final group C standings (all played 3)

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	3	-	-	4	0	6
USSR	2		1	5	1	4
Egypt	1	-	2	6	2	2
Trin & Tob	-		3	0	12	0

* Australia won 5-4 on penalties. Sequence: Okon (scored), Seal (scored), Kindtner (missed), Muscat (scored), Babic (scored), Stanton (scored).

** Australia lost 4-5 on penalties. Sequence: Seal (saved), Okon (scored), Conca (scored), Babic (scored), Popovic (scored), Stanton (saved).

			T&T	USSR	Egy	Syr	Per	USSR
1	Mark Bosnich	13 02 72 Man Utd	X	X	X	X	X	X
18	Zeljko Kalac	16 12 72 Sydney Croatia						
4	Mark Babic	24 04 73 Syd. Croatia	X	X	X	X	X	X
5	Paul Okon	05 04 72 Marconi	X	X	X	X	X	X
12	Kevin Muscat	07 08 73 A.I.S.	X	X	X	X	X	
3	Robert Stojcevski	07 07 73 Preston	X	X	Xo60	X		X
13	Tony Popovic	04 07 73 Syd. Croatia	so67	so62	so60y		X	X
2	Robert Spasevski	07 11 72 Preston						
17	George Sorras	11 04 72 Syd. Olympic		so56			X	
6	Adam Poric	22 04 73 St George	Xo67	Xo62	X	Xo72	X	
7	Matthew Bingley	16 08 71 St George	so69	X	X	X	Xo75	so65
8	Lorenz Kindtner	13 10 71 Sunshine	X	X	X	X	X	X
14	Brad Maloney	19 01 72 Canb. Metros	X	X	X	X	Xo60	Xo56
11	Steve Conca	24 03 73 Marconi	Xo69		so73y		so60	X
15	Robert Stanton	15 04 72 Syd. Croatia				so72		X
9	David Seal	26 10 72 Marconi	X	X	X	X	X	X
10	Kris Trajanovski	19 02 72 Preston			Xo73	Xo65	so75	Xo65
16	Mark Siric	26 02 72 Melb. Croatia	X	Xo56		so65		so56

1993 World Youth Cup Finals (in Australia)

The Group Phase

As in 1981, the hosts did themselves an enormous favour in the hype stakes when they came from behind to defeat South American opposition in their opening match, and the talk was of medals when a quarter final place was clinched with a game to spare. However, Sean Cranney's knee injury (a result of his efforts in forcing the opening own goal) was a severe blow, and coupled with Moore's suspension and the decision to rest Milicic, Cameroon were able to steal the points and send the Aussies to Brisbane.

The Knock-out Phase

Carbone's sudden-death header in Brisbane will go down in folklore but it was Agostino's towering horizontal header to equalise and captain Muscat's recovery from a dislocated jaw that gave the hosts the necessary belief to fight come from behind and defeat South American opposition. Their subsequent match-up against Brazil drew an amazing response from the media and public, with tickets exchanging hands for $200 in Swan St an hour before kick-off. It took Brazil 78 minutes to score their first but the gulf in class between the combatants was adequately reflected in the final score. In a fitting finale, the Aussies and the Poms slugged it out in fine style with Julian Joachim scoring (arguably) the goal of the tournament with just four minutes to go to deny Australia yet again of that elusive third placing.

Mar 5 **Sydney** — **Colombia** — **2-1**
Milicic 39, Muscat 73

Mar 8 **Sydney** — **Russia** — **3-1**
o.g. 13, Milicic 68, Agostino 81

Mar 11 **Sydney** — **Cameroon** — **0-2**

Mar 13 **Brisbane** — **1/4 fin Uruguay** — **2-1***
Agostino 58, Carbone 104

Mar 17 **Melbourne** — **Semi Brazil** — **0-2**

Mar 20 **Sydney** — **3rd pl.England** — **1-2**
Milicic 52

* Defeated Uruguay in sudden-death overtime

Final group A standings (all played 3)

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Russia	2	-	1	6	4	5
Australia	2	-	1	5	4	6
Cameroon	1		2	4	5	2
Colombia	1	-	2	5	7	2

			Col	Rus	Cam	Uru	Bra	Eng
1	Frank Juric	28 10 73 Melb. Croatia						
18	Vince Melassa	21 09 73 Perth Italia	X	X	X	X	X	X
6	Kevin Muscat	07 08 73 South Melb.	X	X	X	Xy	X	X
4	Ante Juric	11 11 73 Canb. Metros	X	X	X	X	X	X
2	Craig Moore	12 12 75 AIS	Xy	Xy		Xy	Xy	
5	Marc Wingell	03 10 73 Perth Italia	Xy	Xo46		X	X	X
3	Aaron Holst	06 08 74 Marconi		so46	X	Xy	X	X
13	Ante Moric	19 04 74 Syd. Croatia	Xo72	X	Xo46	X	Xy	Xo50
11	Peter Tsekenis	04 08 73 Syd. Olympic	Xy	X	X	X	Xo63	X
6	Anthony Carbone	13 10 74 Perth Italia	X	X	X	X	X	X
7	Sean Cranney	02 10 73 Brisbane Utd	Xo61	Xo17				
16	Darren Iocca	29 08 74 Marconi	so61	so17	Xo71		so63	Xo45
12	Jimmy Tsekenis	08 05 75 West Adel			X	so87	so46	so45
9	Paul Agostino	08 06 75 Young Boys	X	X	X	X	X	X
10	Ante Milicic	04 04 74 Syd. Croatia	X	X	so71	Xyo87	Xo46	X
14	Fabio Macolino	23 06 74 Marconi	so72		X			
15	Vasco Trpcevski	07 03 75 Preston			so46			so50
17	Nick Radecki	27 12 73 Sunshine GC						

1995 World Youth Cup Finals (in Qatar)

The Group Phase

The tournament was thrown into turmoil when concerns over the original venue of Nigeria forced FIFA to first postpone, then cancel, then award hosting rights to Qatar. Australia maintained its unbeaten record against CONCACAF opposition and although defensive frailties led to a second consecutive defeat against Cameroon, a draw against the Germans would be sufficient. Oz fell behind to a first half goal but dominated a match in which the woodwork and keeper Simon Jentzch were the stars of a virtual reserve German team, a situation caused by the perennial club v country hassles amongst European clubs. For the Aussies Skoko, Middleby, Piesa, Talay and of course Viduka impressed most agents watching.

The Knock-out Phase

Both goalkeepers made crucial saves in normal time. Bolton saved a penalty from Dani while Quim produced one out of the top drawer to deny Skoko with a 20 metre rocket. A tight contest rightly went into sudden death where Agostinho converted Dani's excellent pass and prevented Oz from making it three semi final appearances in succession. Viduka had a golden chance five minutes into overtime but Portugal perhaps deserved their win, but would be on the wrong end of an injury time winner in their semi final against Brazil.

Apr 13 Doha — Costa Rica 2-0
Viduka 51, Enes 74pen

Apr 16 Doha — Cameroon 2-3
Viduka 10, 70

Apr 20 Doha — Germany 1-1
Viduka 53

Apr 23 Doha — 1/4 fin Portugal 1-2
o.g. 72

Final group D standings (all played 3)

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cameroon	2	1		7	4	7
Australia	1	1	1	5	4	4
Costa Rica	1		2	3	6	3
Germany	-	2	1	3	4	2

			CR	Cam	Ger	Por
Clint Bolton	22 06 76	Brisbane Strikers		so12	X	X
Lee Pogliacomi		Marconi	X	Xo12		
Joe Vrkic		Sydney Utd	X	X	X	X
Paul Bilokapic	08 08 76	Sydney Utd	X	X	X	X
Richard Piesa	09 01 76	Sydney Utd	X	X	X	X
Con Anthopoulos	20 05 76	South Melbourne	X	X	X	
Mark Rudan	27 08 76	Sydney Utd	X	X		X
Ian Pollari		Marconi			X	X
Josip Skoko		Nth Geelong	X	Xo	Xo	X
Robert Enes		Melbourne SC	X	X	Xo	X
Jfuk Talay	26 03 76	Marconi	X	X	X	X
Mark Viduka	09 10 75	Melbourne Knights	X	X	X	X
Robert Middleby		Wollongong	X	X	Xo	X
Andrew Vlahos	21 04 76	Heidelberg			so	
Nick Lazaravski	29 10 75	Melbourne SC				
Dino Mennillo		Adelaide City		so	so	
John Carter		Brisbane Strikers				
John Angelovski		Melbourne SC			so	

1997 World Youth Cup Finals (in Malaysia)

The Group Phase

The group matches were originally scheduled to take place in Ipoh but the wretched state of the pitch meant a swift transfer to the wonderfully named Kangar. An omen if ever there was one.

A disappointing draw with Canada was only appreciated after a last gasp win against Hungary meant Australia would progress with a draw against the Argies. What followed almost defies description. Kosta Salapasidis became the first player to score four goals for Oz in a finals match, and the first to score four goals in a match against the Argies at any level since Noah built his ark.

The Knock-out Phase

A goal by Yanagisawa two minutes before half time should have been enough to shake Australia from their hangover. To be fair though, the Australians had spent their penny against Argentina and the Asians thoroughly deserved their victory. Yanagisawa could have had a hat-trick yet the goal he scored was perhaps the one that could have been avoided from a defensive viewpoint.
Japan went on to lose to Ghana 1-2 via a golden goal in the quarter finals.

Jun 16 (Kangar) — Canada 0-0

Jun 20 (Kangar) — Hungary 1-0
Daniel Allsopp 90

Jun 23 (Kangar) — Argentina 4-3
Kostas Salapasidis 40, 41, 54, 90pen

Jun 26 (Kangar) — 1/4 fin Japan 0-1

Group B standings (all played 3)

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	2	1	-	6	3	7
Argentina	2	-	1	8	5	6
Canada	1	1	1	3	3	4
Hungary			3	1	6	0

				Can	Hun	Arg	Jap
1	Danny Micosevic	26 06 78	Arminia Bielefeld	X	X	X	X
18	Peter Zois	21 04 78	V S				
2	Brett Emerton	22 02 79	UTS Olympic	X	X	X	X
3	Ivan Zelic	24 02 78	UTS Olympic	X	X	Xo60	Xo
4	Con Blatsis	06 07 77	South Melbourne	X	X	X	X
6	Hayden Foxe	23 06 77	Arminia Bielefeld	X	X	X	X
14	Sebastian Smozic	14 08 78	Wollongong	X	X	X	X
13	Tansel Baser	17 04 78	South Melbourne			so60	so
5	Raphael Bove	05 03 77	UTS Olympic			so69	
	Simon Colosimo	08 01 79	A.S				
8	Lucas Neill	09 03 78	Millwall	X	X	so63	
15	Mark Robertson	06 04 77	Marconi			Xo63	X
7	Billy Damianos	18 04 77	South Melbourne	X	X	X	X
9	Vince Grella	05 10 79	Carlton	X	Xo		
16	Yane Talcevski	29 08 78	Marconi				
12	Kostas Salapsasidis	01 07 78	Adelaide City	X	X	X	X
11	Michael Curcija	27 06 77	South Melbourne	X	X	Xo69	Xo
17	Daniel Allsopp	10 08 78	South Melbourne		so		so
10	Carlos Gonzalez	23 11 77	UTS Olympic				so

1999 World Youth Cup (in Nigeria)

The Group Phase

This will be the Sauds fifth finals appearance but they have never played Oz at the finals and have never progressed beyond the group stage. Mexico, on their ninth visit, have runners-up medals from 1977 and three other 1/4 final appearances on their belts and have met the Aussies once, on home soil in 1983. The Republic of Ireland caused a sensation in 1997 by finishing third, after two previous tournament appearances had seen dismal results. Having won the European under-18 championships last year they are the obvious danger in a group devoid of previous winners.

Australia's squad looks to have most elements required to reach the last eight although injuries in the backline need to be avoided and a number of coaches have grumbled about the goalkeeping selections, but Les doesn't choose his squads lightly so the man should be trusted until further notice. Let the games begin.

Apr 4	Ibadan	Saudi Arabia
Apr 7	Ibadan	Mexico
Apr 10	Ibadan	Rep Ireland

				Saudi	Mex	Ire
1	Anthony Breedon	07 03 79	Adelaide City			
18	Michael Turnbull	24 03 81	AIS			
3	Lindsay Wilson	04 05 79	Canberra Cosmos			
4	Simon Colosimo	06 01 79	Carlton			
5	Eddy Boenar	29 04 80	Northern Spirit			
6	Paul Wearne	14 03 80	Northern Spirit			
17	Mark Bymes	08 02 82	NSWIS			
2	Brett Emerton	22 02 79	Sydney Olympic			
7	Jason Culina	05 05 80	Sydney Olympic			
8	Vince Grella	05 10 79	Empoli (Italy)			
9	Marco Bresciano	11 02 80	Carlton			
12	David Terminello	30 06 80	Adelaide City			
13	Michael Cunico	17 03 79	Northern Spirit			
14	Danny Invincible	31 03 79	Marconi			
15	Christian Cara	21 03 79	Marconi			
10	John Maisano	08 01 79	Westerlo (Belg)			
11	Mile Sterjovski	27 05 79	Sydney United			
16	Joel Griffiths	21 06 79	Sydney United			

P.S. - SBS have done the right thing again (Hooray!) and will be televising Australia's matches, starting on Sunday night, the 4th of April, at midnight (although we think the kick-off times will be 1am (EST).

The Other Groups at a glance...

Grp A	Lagos:	Nigeria, Costa Rica, Germany, Paraguay
Grp B	Kaduna:	Ghana, Croatia, Argentina, Kazakhstan
Grp D	Enugu:	Uruguay, Mali, Korea, Portugal
Grp E	Kano and Bauchi	Cameroon, Japan, England, United States
Grp F	Port Harcourt and Calabar	Zambia, Honduras, Spain, Brazil

2ND RD - April 14-15; 1/4 FINALS - April 18; SEMI-FINALS - April 21,
3RD PL - April 24, FINAL - April 24

Dear SU (Sort Of).....

The following e-mail was posted to various Australian soccer mailing lists on the 13th of March '99 and is reprinted here in an effort to extend the audience of the mail.

Dear Canberra Supporters,

On Tuesday April 6, at 7.30, the Canberra Cosmos Supporters Club will stage its next meeting at the City Club in Civic.

An important part of the agenda is to discuss, vote on and hopefully agree to the Supporters Code I have drafted below.

I feel we need to show leadership on this issue and hope that other clubs will follow.

If it is agreed to, the following will happen:

- It will be circulated to Soccer Australia, all EC clubs and made available as a press release to all media.
- It will be mass-produced and handed to all supporters entering our first home game of the new season.
- It will be printed in the match programme on at least one occasion.

I encourage all of you to read it, think about it, and support this important step.

Chris Kunz

The Canberra Cosmos Supporters' Code

We, supporters of Canberra's team in the National Soccer competition, affirm our agreement to, and belief in, the following code outlining standards of behaviour and language.

We agree to uphold our tradition of supporter peace and tolerance evident at all our games since a Canberra team first entered the competition in 1977.

We welcome all men, women, boys and girls, supporters and officials of all teams, as well as match officials and confirm their right to be part of our world game in a positive and safe environment.

We look forward to acknowledging demonstrations of skill and excellence by all players – our own and those of our opposition.

We encourage all to vocally, passionately and even humourously support our team but in doing so agree to use language free of swearwords and racial, sexual or personal abuse.

Above all, we reaffirm our love for the real football, our team, the Canberra Cosmos and our country, Australia.

"Right Time, Right Place."

Damian Smith interviews Eric Heath

	Eric Heath	*Born 22/09/1925 in Haverton Hill, Durham*	
Career	*South Bank*	*AFC Northern League*	*Middlesbrough Reserves*
	Moreland	*Brighton (2 seasons)*	*Moreland*

Originally Eric Heath trained to become a member of an aircrew but due to the scaling down of the action in Europe Eric had to relinquish his a rforce uniform for one in the British navy. He was then shipped out to Trincomalee, Ceylon during the height of the Allies war with Japan. His job as a qualified blacksmith was to repair damaged English naval vessels.

He fondly recalled his time there playing for the NAVY against various X s mostly made up from visiting damaged warships. It was there he met Australian service men for the first time.

"It was more of a holiday than a war posting. As far as we were concerned the war was a millions miles away. Most of the time we would play football, go to the beach or go up to Colombo."

Eric returned to England after the war and fell back into civilian life, working for a Northern manufacturer. Soon after though, he read an article in a newspaper extolling the qualities of the "Land Down Under". He remembered the warm nature of the Australian Servicemen he had met while stationed in Ceylon and felt, like most immigrants of that time, that it would be a better life for him and his wife.

Eric set out for Australia in 1949. He arrived in Melbourne on January 1950 with his wife Irene. He soon began working for Henderson Spring Works in North Melbourne as a blacksmith. However he did not stay there long, as he had heard that another company McLean Massey in Sunshine offered "piece work" (paid per unit produced) and he was soon on his way.

It was here he met Sam Horrobin, his foreman, who asked him if he played football. When Eric replied that he did and that he was on the books of Middlesborough, Horrobin's eyes lit up and another Australian soccer career was born.

"He said, we go tonight to Moreland and I agreed. It was a Tuesday night, I trained and he (Sam) signed me up straight away. I played the following Saturday."

Eric was so good that he was made captain of the Moreland team halfway through his first season in 1950. With Reg Parkhouse and Tom Bennett sharing the keeping responsibilities Heath and Pat Clarke in defence, former Scot Joe Kennedy at centre half, Alec Nolan at left-half and with Bertie "Bluey" Gnix, Bob Greenslades and South African Reg Hardman up front, the first division side won their way to the Dockerty Cup final of that year.

However Eric didn't take his place in the victorious Cup Final side. He was selected to tour New Caledonian as a member of the Australian team along with the likes of fellow Victorian, Angus Drennan.

"I played every single game that year expect the Dockerty Cup final. That was played whilst I was in New Celedonia. But they still gave me a winners medal."

Eric had little warning about his forthcoming selection. "Mine was a very late selection. Out of the blue I get this phone call from Moreland president Jimmy Stewart saying Eric you've been picked to play for Australia to go to Noumea. I said Noumea!! Where on earth is that?"

So Eric packed his bags and headed to Sydney where he joined the rest of the squad before flying out to Noumea. "They looked after us well. It was a very small island but we had a hectic schedule. I think it was 3 games in four days."

The following year, he made his Victorian debut against South Australia in Adelaide on May 9th 1951. In early June of that year, Eric played in the Victorian side that competed against a touring English XI in a 2 game series in Melbourne. These games were played on the 6th and 9th of the month.

The Australians were scheduled to meet the English at the Richmond Football Ground on June 11th. And Eric was selected to once again face the might of the English. He donned the Green and Gold for the first time on Australian soil, and despite going down 6-1 to the professionals, Eric, in his right back position, had once again done himself proud.

The touring English side had a outside left by the name Bobby Langton, a Bolton forward. Heath lined up on the star and when his first chance came Heath, pumped full of adrenalin, slid in and tackled Langton ferociously. Once Langton had made his way back to his feet, he turned and smiled at the young Heath and commented, "Son, I know you're trying to impress, but for God's sake son, take it easy, I have 10 more games to go."

In the same year Eric was selected to tour New Zealand as part of an invitation Victorian team put together by Bill Thomas. This team was known as the "Kangaroos" and spent three weeks touring New Zealand.

"That was a good tour. We did both islands, yes that was a good trip. They looked after us and treated us well. The trip was organised by Bill Thomas, who was an ex-New Zealander, so he knew where to go and who to see. We paid our own way there but we received some reimbursement from the Federation."

"It was like we were on a holiday which would be interrupted occasionally by the odd game of soccer. I remember two of the guys, doing highland flings for the cameras. A lot of the players were from the Brighton Soccer Club as was the organiser, Bill Thomas. The Brighton Club President also came over. So in a way it was like an end of season trip."

In June 1952 Eric represented Victoria in the Interstate Carnival held at Toorak Park in Melbourne. Crowds flocked to see all the games and the locals were able to prevail in the final winning 3-1.

One of the most infamous incidents happened the day when New South Welshmen, Frank Parsons was sent off for decking Victorian Serge Blass, whom Frank claimed had thrown mud in his face. "We beat them. I can recall Frank being sent off. The game was at Toorak Park."

I quizzed Eric if he could remember any arguing that took place before the mud was thrown, he looked a little sheepishly and I understood instantly that he didn't want to dob in an old soccer colleague. "Not really. I mean Frank is a mate of mine."

In a jokingly fashion I replied that I didn't think that Mr Blass would like to take Frank to court.

(continued over)

"I know he got sent off. He threw mud in the blokes face. Frank turned around and went jab."

"Sergio, in my opinion, was the best player in this country. Out of all I played with or against, he was the best, Sergio Biassi. His positional play and his accuracy of passing. You see I played right-back and he played in midfield and he was always on his own. I never had to kick the ball more than 20 or 30 yards. He was always in position, always on his own. He made me look so good, cause I could always manage to pass it into the clear, which was to him."

"Biassi, a Juventus player, was a gentleman. He was so polite to you, you couldn't find a better man than Sergio Biassi."

"Angus Drennan was a good friend of mine and a good player. One of those players that really trained hard. He worked himself to death you know, he trained so hard. Everybody liked Angus Drennan, he was a very sociable and likeable person. He'd never say a wrong word about anyone. You know he's a dinky di Aussie, not a migrant like most of us."

During the 1950s and 60s, the face of Victorian soccer began to change. The ethnic clubs became stronger both on and off the pitch. They were able to offer players, for the first time, a wage. Presidents of the powerful ethnic clubs travelled around Melbourne buying up the best players.

The Moreland Soccer Club was a favourite target. During this period numerous players left to play with the cashed up clubs. In 1957, despite the decimation of the team, Moreland were able to win another Dockerty Cup, taking their tally to 4, with an upset win over the hot favourites, Slavia.

"You could understand why the players left. They had families to support. They (ethnic clubs) had huge attendances and were able to pay their players." In 1962 Moreland had a written guarantee that the great Stanley Mathews would play 8 games with the club. However this deal fell through because of FIFA's ban on foreign players coming to Australia.

"The club had correspondence with Stanley. Yes. He really wanted to come. He remembered Frank Loughran, his old sparring partner, from the Blackpool tour in 1958. You see Tommy Trinder and Harry Hopman were both patrons of the Moreland Soccer club."

"Juventus and JUST had all the support. They were able to play their main games at Olympic Park. Double headers, big, big crowds, not like today. I remember going to Middle Park and you always could judge the size of the crowd by how close or how far away from the ground you could park your car."

His playing career for the Morelanders finished in 1978 after 28 years of loyal service to the one club. In 1969 he was dutifully rewarded for his loyalty when he was made a life member of the Moreland Thistle Soccer Club, an honour which rates as high as any other achievement in his life.

He is a trustee, life member and patron of the Victorian Soccer Federation and oversaw the purchase of the first soccer house in 1960 for 13,000 pounds. In 1998, the VSF sold the property for $1.25 million.

Eric and Irene now reside in a quiet South-Eastern suburb of Melbourne. Still fit and healthy, his only complaint is a dodgy knee, he gets together with a few of his mates every Tuesday for a drink, which he has done for many, many years and occasionally he'll drive down to watch his beloved Moreland take on his "local favourite", Sandringham, in the Victorian State League 3rd Division.

Soccer in Sydney in 1960

In part of a semi-regular series, unofficial N.S.W. historian Dr Stock looks at soccer in the 1960s and the comings and goings of each season in Sydney.

On October 2nd 1960 17,872 fans paid a record 4,216 pounds to see the Leo Baumgartner led Canterbury-Marrickville side defeat his former club Prague 5 goals to 2 at Henson Park in Marrickville. Following the doldrums of the late 1950s which saw the newly established N.S.W. Federation of Soccer Clubs fight for the games control against the old N.S.W. Soccer Football Association, the day was a triumph for the reunified code and was a sign of an upsurge in the popularity of soccer in Australia.

The Canterbury-Marrickville side of the day was one of youth and experience. From the youthful Johnny Watkiss and Johnny Warren through to the experience of goalkeeper Ron Brown and Leo Baumgartner the Canterbury side were considered the underdogs against a Prague side led by the Austrian trio of Jaros, Saghi and Nimaus. Socceroo Ron Lord was Prague's goalkeeper, while the experienced Novocastrian Kevin O'Neill ran their defence with Les Scheinflug controlling the midfield. The Prague side were seemingly unbeatable finishing third in the preseason Ampol Cup behind Budapest and A.P.I.A. and then losing just one match in the premiership season to finish minor premiers by five points from A.P.I.A. (41 points), Canterbury-Marrickville (38) and Auburn (36).

In the semi-final series Canebury-Marrickville first eliminated the Len Quested led Auburn side 2-0 with goals to Baumgartner and Brian Smith. Socceroo goalkeeper Billy Henderson had a sensational match for Auburn but the writing was on the wall as the Berries advanced to the final where they met A.P.I.A. Leichhardt at Wentworth Park a week later. Led by Socceroo legend Joe Marston the A.P.I.A. side were no easybeats but in the third minute of extra time a Brian Smith strike beat John De Francesco in the A.P.I.A. goal and Canterbury advanced 3 goals to 2. On the other side of the draw Prague won their spot in the grand final when they crushed A.P.I.A. Leichhardt in the Second Semi-Final 3-0 with two goals to Herbert Nimaus, the other coming from Karl Jaros.

In Leo Baumgartner's autobiography "The Little Professor" Leo refers to the grand final between Canterbury-Marrickville and Prague as one of his greatest triumphs. Although their first half was a little flat they still managed to go into half-time comfortably up 2-0 with goals to Jose Amigo and Brian Smith. In the 52nd minute Austrian import Karl Jaros brought one back for Prague and all of a sudden we had a ball game. That was until the tale professor himself literally made the game his own. Soccer World Annual of 1961 described the moment "Leo Baumgartner beat man after man from mid-field to gather a reversed pass from Amigo and volley the ball past a flabbergasted Ron Lord." That was undoubtedly one of the finest moments of the whole season and easily the highlight of the match. Spurred on by Leo's efforts the Berries ran in a further two to Geoff Warren (Johnny's elder brother) and Barry Salisbury before Stuart Sherwin pulled back a belated effort for Prague in the last five minutes to finish the game at 5-2. Canterbury-Marrickville were worthy champions and when Leo Baumgartner lifted the trophy an Australian club record crowd went mad. Soccer in Sydney was back in a big way.

(continued over)

Following on from a dramatic 1950s soccer was merely starting to recover in 1960. Scores of new immigrants were arriving in Australia and the emergence of the Federation of Soccer Clubs had seen the many ethnic clubs flourish with their new supporter base. Due to transfer irregularities FIFA had deregistered Australia from world competition and following on from the Hearts of Midlothian and Desportiva Saprissa club tours in 1959 Australia was effectively isolated from the rest of the soccer playing world.

The N.S.W. first division was made up primarily of a mix of ethnic clubs with Prague (Czech/Austrian), A.P.I.A. Leichhardt (Italian), Budapest (Hungarian), North Side-E.P.T. (Polish), Hakoah (Jewish) and Sydney Austral (Dutch) alongside the traditional district clubs of Canterbury-Marrickville, Gladesville-Ryde, Auburn, Bankstown, Manly-Warringah and Granville with two South Coast clubs in Corrimal and Balgownie. The ethnic clubs were better financed and were able to offer more in the way of financial inducement to recruit the better players. Prague for instance were able to boast a side containing six former Austrian first division players, three Socceroos and two former Sydney representative players. For the district clubs making ends meet was often a struggle and it was no surprise at the end of the season to see three of them relegated (Granville, Manly and Balgownie). Replacing them was the winner of second division Pan Hellenic a Greek backed club located in Sydney's inner west and a forerunner to the current day Sydney Olympic.

On the representative scene, the absence of any touring sides saw the running of two interstate carnivals. The first in Sydney was the Ampol National Cup which saw the winners of the Ampol Cup preseason knockout competition in N.S.W. (Wallsend), South Australia (Juventus), Victoria (J.U.S.T.) and Queensland (Hellenic) all pitted against each other in a round robin tournament. The winner was J.U.S.T. from Victoria who walked away with 2 wins a draw from their three matches.

The second was on the Queens Birthday long weekend where Melbourne played host to a four team interstate carnival, the first since 1954. N.S.W. were led by captain-coach Leo Baumgartner but failed to impress as Victoria beat them 4-1 (goals to Hodgson x2 and Keuken x2) and then beat both Queensland and South Australia to convincingly take the series. With matches played over all three days as double headers the fitness of players was sorely tested as emphasised by an aging N.S.W. side containing the likes of Joe Marston and former Scottish international Jock Aird.

The season was indeed a long one as the N.S.W. Federation decided to run a second knockout competition called the Ascot Thousand following the completion of the regular season. In what was a 'boil over' the Bankstown club defeated the 1959 holders Hakoah 2-1 in the first round, Gladesville-Ryde 3-0 in the second, Budapest the Sydney Ampol Cup winners 2-1 in the third and Canterbury-Marrickville 1-0 in the final. Led by former Scottish first division player Willie Westwater the side played some good quality football to make something out of an otherwise disappointing year and walk away with the 1,000 pounds first prize.

Crowd violence was also starting to creep into the game as early as 1960. A match on April 3 at Lambert Park saw some ugly crowd confrontations between rival fans as A.P.I.A. beat Pan Hellenic 3-2. On May 8 the Balgownie v Budapest match was abandoned 3 minutes short of time by referee Dave Buchan after he was man handled by fans when he awarded Balgownies fourth goal. In front of an estimated 900 hardy souls at Balgownie Oval, Budapest fans were incensed when John Evans scored for the home side and took to the pitch to voice their displeasure.

On a positive note the 600,000 aggregate attendance mark was breached for the first time in history. 350,000 people watched the competition proper with a weekly average of 13,445 people watching each week - 4,000 more than the previous year. The top drawing club was A.P.I.A. followed by Prague, Canterbury, Hakoah and Auburn. The poorest drawing clubs were Balgownie and Manly who both finished up being relegated. The Australian club premiership match attendance record was broken on July 31 when 13,187 piled into Wentworth Park to see A.P.I.A. Leichhardt inflict a 1-0 loss on Prague. It was to be Prague's only loss throughout their premiership campaign with the difference being a Dhilo Schio strike in the 78th minute.

On the national scene moves were afoot to form an Australian Soccer Federation to take over control of the national scene from the Australian Soccer Association. With the federation assuming control of football in N.S.W. and emerging strongly in Victoria and Queensland, the establishment of a solid national body was paramount to ensure Australia's re-entry into the FIFA ranks. With Harry Seamonds as Chairman of the Management Committee in N.S.W. discussions were being held in all states to ensure this could occur as soon as was humanly possible. However it would be 1964 before Australian Soccer would again be part of the world game.

⇒ **N.S.W. Premiership Minor Premiers** - Prague

⇒ **N.S.W. Grand-Final Winners** - Canterbury-Marrickville

⇒ **Second Division Premiership Winners** - Pan Hellenic

⇒ **Second Division Grand Final Winners** - Polonia

⇒ **Promoted to First Division** - Pan Hellenic

⇒ **Relegated to Second Division** - Granville, Balgownie, Manly-Warringah

⇒ **Sydney Ampol Cup Winners** - Budapest

⇒ **N.S.W. Ampol Cup Winners** - Wallsend (N.N.S.W.)

⇒ **National Ampol Cup Carnival Winners** - J.U.S.T. (Melbourne)

⇒ **Record Australian Club Premiership Match Attendance** - 13,187 31/7/60
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt v Prague at Wentworth Park, Ultimo.

⇒ **Record Australian Grand Final Attendance** - 17,872 2/10/60
Canterbury-Marrickville v Prague at Henson Park, Marrickville

⇒ **Top Five Goalscorers** - Herbert Ninaus (Prague) 46 goals;
Bruce Morrow (Auburn) 37; Leopold Baumgartner (Canterbury-Marrickville) 30,
Bill Hume (Gladesville-Ryde) 29, Tony Varglien (North Side E.P.T.) 27.

⇒ **Top Five Sydney Referees** - Norm Jones, Roy Pearce, John Ipenburg,
Frank Sbisa, Stanislav Liebermann.

Did That *REALLY* Happen?!?!?!?

FEBRUARY

15 - The Oceania Football Confederation refuses to sanction the soccer tournament at the upcoming South Pacific Games in May-June. The SPG want to run the competition under their own rules, allowing competitors who have been a resident for four years to represent their 'new' country.

27 - The VSF brings forward the Springvale White Eagles v South Dandenong Premier League match forward 24 hours and plays it behind closed doors at Fawkner, some 50km away, after fears of crowd trouble in light of events in Kosovo. Mark Viduka makes his long-awaited senior debut for Celtic, coming on as a 54th substitute against Dundee United, and he makes enough of an impact to impress the locals.

28 - A bit of history in the NSL as Carlton play their final match at Optus Oval, a 1-3 loss to Sydney United. A bit of history in the Victorian Premier League as well, with TWO players called Nick Papadopoulos lining up in the Altona East v Green Gully match. AND THEY BOTH SCORED!

MARCH

4 - The rumour mill suggests that Stan Lazaridis may be on the move from West Ham to Manchester City.

6 - Stadium Australia hosts a rugby league double-header and draws a first up crowd of 104, 583.

7 - Gippsland Falcons president Fred Di Sipio reveals that the club are about $1.3 million in debt and are simply must find an injection of capital.

8 - Mark Viduka gets his first goals for Celtic in a 3-0 Scottish Cup 1/4 final victory over, ahem, Greenock Morton.

11 - Perth general manager Roger Lefort is quick to quash speculation on a second NSL team in Perth after persistent newspaper reports over Sheffield Wednesday's sudden interest in Aussie soccer. Meanwhile things are look grim for Adelaide Sharks. Players haven't been paid, 'owner' Con Makris is sick of pumping money into a club when he doesn't know the full extent of the debt, the club is out of the running for the finals, and, as coach Adrian Santrac puts it "*I can't deny the issue regarding payments has had a serious effect on morale.... It's a very difficult period for everyone at the club*".

13 - It's first against second in the Victorian Premier League, and hosts Port Melbourne retain top spot with a 2-1 win over Green Gully.

14 - Same teams, same venue, same winner. Carlton and South Melbourne do battle at Olympic Park but there's no grandstand finish this team as Souths romp to an easy 3-0 win. The special meeting of members called at Adelaide Sharks ends in stalemate with a general meeting called for March 28. Mark Viduka scores twice in Celtic's 5-1 league romp over Aberdeen. It is Celtic's biggest win at Pittodrie in 36 years, and Viduka warns Rangers they shouldn't think the title is sewn up yet. "*I played in the game between Australia and Iran which we led by two clear gols so I know what it's like to be almost there...*"

19 - Things look grimmer for Adelaide Sharks with the revelation that a new consortium, going under the name of Adelaide United, will present an application to join the Ericsson Cup in time for the 2000 season. But then, the Sharks manage to extract a 1-0 victory over the visiting Melbourne Knights, after they could only manage 13 fit players to name on the teamsheet!

20 - Mike Urukalo is back from Guam where he completed a coaching contract, and launches into a spray.. "*I can't recall and I can't think of one player... who excites the crowd.*"

21 - South Melbourne have the advantage of playing against ten men at Bob Jane yet again, but Adelaide City guts it out and pinch a point through Carl Veart in the dying minutes.

23 - Eddie Krncevic denies knowledge that Auckland Kings have him on their coaching shortlist for next season. "*But it's nice to be wanted*" says ■.

Did they REALLY print that?

It's been grinding away with us for a few months now but we thought we'd give them ample opportunity to fix the problem. Unfortunately, the problem has been exacerbated. A few months ago we started noticing subtle differences in the weekly Ericsson Cup tables supplied by Soccer Australia's media department and the EC tables which appeared in the Australian. The relevant parties were notified, but a glance at the tables printed at the conclusion of round 25 should give you a hint of the confusion created amongst fans and even some players!

	Soc Aus			**The Oz**	
	Pts	F- A		Pts	F- A
Sth Melb	48	44-23	Sth Melb	48	44-24
Syd Utd	48	45-31	Syd Uld	48	45-31
Perth	45	51-28	Perth	45	51-28
Ad City	38	37-24	Syd Olymp.	38	38-27
Syd Olymp.	38	38-27	Ad City	38	38-24
Nth Spirit	38	31-31	Nth Spirit	38	31-31
Marconi	33	42-44	Marconi	33	42-45
Newcastle	33	23-28	Newcastle	33	23-28
Brisbane	32	33-38	Brisbane	32	33-38
Carlton	31	42-38	Carlton	31	42-38
Woll'gong	27	35-39	Woll'gong	27	35-39
Ad Sharks	24	32-37	Ad Sharks	24	32-37
Melb Kngts.	20	26-36	Melb Kngts	20	26-36
Gippsland	20	14-41	Gippsland	20	14-40
Canberra	14	19-47	Canberra	14	19-49

BULLETIN BOARD

We haven't done it for a while so we should remind all subscribers that they are welcome to plug virtually anything as long as it is soccer related, and especially if it involves trivia, alcohol, or preferably both!!!!!

Sitter - Issue 33 now available.
Get a bird's (*Kiwi*) eye view of the Oceania and N.Z. scene, from the Auckland Kings to the Confederations Cup and all the regular grouse stuff!!!!
Interested parties (and there should be plenty of them) should send a $5 Aussie note to
Sitter! - 11 Thames St, Hamilton, New Zealand.

The Farr Post - Issue 29, March 1999 Out Now!!
This month we hear about the Toowoomba United Raiders and their baptism of fire and catch part 2 of TFP's interview with Frank Farina
So to keep up with all the Queensland news just send $2:00 to Tony at:
Sportsprint, P O Box 478, Bulimba, Qld 4171

Two more quality reads at half time are "Three Points and a Hangover" (The Spirit fan's new bible) and "My Blue Heaven" from the Melbourne Blues.
Both are chock full of interviews, player profiles and club news, and provide a forum for the supporters views.
Don't forget to look out for YOUR teams' fanzine at a ground near you!!!!!!

If you're looking for that hard-to find special tome, why not drop a line to Trevor Moore at 58 Tristan St, Carindale Qld 4152. Trevor has just released a new catalogue full of goodies and may VERY well be able to help.
Mark Burgess is another bloke who had produced a catalogue of collectibles, with a couple of hundred soccer items included. He can be contacted at: The Collector's Sports Books PO Box 198 Earlwood NSW 2206.

LOOK OUT FOR....

Eriesson Cup Highlights
Rd 27 - Apr 4 - Sydney Olympic v Carlton, Adelaide Sharks v Adelaide City
Rd 28 - Apr 11 - Sydney United v South Melbourne, Carlton v Perth Glory
Rd 29 - Apr 16 - Newcastle v Northern Spirit, Apr 17 - Marconi v Adelaide City
Rd 30 - Apr 25 - Adelaide City v Sydney Olympic, Marconi v Northern Spirit

Victorian Premier League Highlights
Rd 10 - Apr 10 - Bentleigh v Bulleen, Apr 11 - Melb Raiders v Sunshine
Rd 11 - Apr 17 - Altona Magic v Melb Raiders, Apr18 - Port Melb v Preston
Rd 12 - Apr 25 - Preston v Bulleen, Apr 26 - Green Gully v Altona Magic
Rd 13 - May 2 - Port Melb v Bulleen, St Albans v Green Gully

May - Oceania Under 17 Champs -Fiji in May

June 12 - Australia v FIFA World XI (at Stadium Australia, Sydney)

June 19 - July 10 - WOMENS WORLD CUP (in USA)
Grp A - USA, North Korea, Nigeria, Denmark
Grp B - Germany, Brazil, Mexico, Italy
Grp C - Canada, Japan, Russia, Norway
Grp D - China, **Australia**, Ghana, Sweden
Grp Phase - June 19-27; 1/4 finals - June 30/July 1; Semis - July 4; 3rd pl & Final - July 10

October/November
WORLD UNDER 17 CHAMPIONSHIPS (in New Zealand)

Coming sooner now!!.....

The Un official Beginners Guide to the

History of the Australian National Soccer League

Chock full of tables stats, and titbits, from 1877 to present day, we give you all that we can give in this concise guide to the NSL.

All the finalists (cups as well!!!), as well as the leading goal scorers in the one handy booklet makes this a must for all good collections!!!!

Available really soon through Studs Up or from Santo at:

Melbourne Sports Books

9 Elizabeth Street Melbourne (upstairs)

Phone (03) 96211211